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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 89% Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later Sensex 77,042 | Nifty 23,311 | Gold 80,620 | Silver 95,500 | Dollar 86.55 | Euro 89.22 | GBP 105.66

As 80-90 signals set up under Adaptive Traffic Control System await synchronisation, commuters report delays; officials say in a few weeks, it would truly get going

MIXED SIGNALS

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Commuters in Bengaluru are facing significant delays as newly installed traffic signals remain unsynchronised, leading to prolonged waiting times at bus stops. A prime example is the recently set-up signal at Mariyappana Palya, where passengers waiting for buses to Kengeri, report waiting times of up to 12 to 15 minutes.

"I waited for nearly 15 minutes, and when the buses finally came, five or six arrived at once. By the time I could get on board, they were already overcrowded," said Mohan*, who was heading to Kengeri Government Hospital for a check- up. Similarly, Suma*, a daily passenger to KR Market, was waiting at the Post Office bus stop. "I need to get to my office on time, but this delay is throwing off my entire schedule," she said.

Signal awaiting synchronisation

The issue stems from the traffic signals being installed under the Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS) initiative, which is designed to optimise traffic flow. According to higher traffic police officials, 168 signals are being set up under ATCS, out of which 80 to 90 have already been installed as of December 2024. By February 2025, all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

CITY / PAGE 5

BROKEN ROAD

Motorists take to social media to vent about sad state of Panathur-Balagere stretch that has become hotspot for accidents

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THINGS TO DO

01 Anweshana: Golden celebration

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of theatre group Forum Three, bringing focus upon good theatre and other performing arts with Sihikahi Chandru, Ajith Hande (from Kannada film and TV), Gulshan Devaiah (from Bollywood). Theatre will be taken to the masses through enacting auto-centric fun situations to garner public mindshare in a very unusual way in this 2-day theatre fest. **Where: Alliance Francaise, Bengaluru; When: January 18 & 19**

02 Divine musical gathering

Sadguru Sri Thyagabrahma Aradhana Kainkaryam and Sangeethotsava: A day filled with divine melodies and heartfelt devotion. The event will feature a Pancharatna Kruthi Goshti Gayana (group singing of the Pancharatna Krithis) by over 1000 renowned classical musicians and a series of vocal and instrumental music performances by distinguished artists. **Where: Sri Sringeri Shankara Matha, Shankarapuram, Chamarajapete; When: January 18, 6 am onwards**

03 Jewellery exhibit

An exclusive jewellery exhibition and sale in Bengaluru where 40+ reputed and award-winning jewellers & designers from all across India shall showcase their award-winning designs, and one can learn the latest & future trends and designs all under one roof. **Where: Sheraton Grand Hotel, Bengaluru; When: January 17, 18 & 19, 10 am to 9 pm**

04 Read on

Book launch of A Different Distance: A Renga by Marilyn Hacker and Karthika Nair. At turns poignant and playful, the seasons and sessions of A Different Distance display the compassionate, collective wisdom of two women witnessing a singular moment in history. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur When: January 17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

05 Exquisite artworks

Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy is set to host an inspiring exhibition and sale of unique artworks titled "A Work of Art for Every Home." The exhibit aims to bring art closer to the people by showcasing around 600 exquisite artworks created by hundreds of talented artists, each representing Karnataka's rich art heritage and culture. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: January 18 to 21**

06 Show what you got

Unique Talent Show & Carnival: A day full of creativity, excitement, and unforgettable moments for every young performer to shine! From singing and dancing to acrobatics, taekwondo, and more, children can showcase their unique talents for a chance to win exciting prizes. The kid's carnival promises endless fun with thrilling games, creative workshops, Cosplay event and much more. **Where: Embassy Academy, near MS Engineering College, Devanahalli; When: January 25, 12 pm to 6 pm**

Awaiting floral magic

Preparations are underway on Thursday for the Republic Day flower show in the Lalbagh Botanical Garden

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

B'luru is safe city for working women? Stats say otherwise

Sexual harassment & abuse cases against women rise by 9% in 2024: Data; cops attribute this rise to greater awareness, proactive filing of complaints

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While a recent study ranks Bengaluru as one of the safest cities for working women, data reveals a 9% rise in cases of sexual harassment and abuse against women in 2024. According to city crime records, 1,247 cases of sexual harassment were reported in public places and workplaces in 2024, compared to 1,139 cases in 2023. Additionally, rape cases saw a 3% increase, with 178 incidents reported this year.

Senior police officials attribute the increase to greater awareness among women and the proactive registration of complaints. Women are increasingly coming forward to report incidents without fear of neglect or bias. However, in some cases, complaints stemmed from personal disputes or other motives, officials noted.

Role of safe city initiative

A senior police official said, "To ensure women's safety in public spaces, the Safe City Initiative has been implemented. Over 7,500 CCTV cameras have been installed at critical locations, including bus stops and school zones, enhancing surveillance. These measures have empowered women and girls to report harassment and have aided in the swift identification of perpetrators."

Police officials revealed that in many cases, the accused were known to the victims, including incidents where individuals misused their position under the pretext of offering rides. "Out of the 1,247 registered cases of harassment, 1,085 suspects have been identified and legal action taken," added the official.

Decline in domestic violence & child abuse cases

Incidents of domestic violence have decreased by 12%, with 613 cases reported in 2024, down from 697 in 2023. Similarly, sexual abuse cases against minors saw a 3% decline, with 577 cases reported this year, of which 557 have been resolved. "We are committed to investigating every complaint with transparency and ensuring justice for victims. Increased reporting reflects growing confidence among women to stand against harassment and abuse," he said.

Dowry deaths remain unchanged

In 2024, 25 women lost their lives due to dowry harassment, a figure identical to 2023. Among the victims was a homemaker from a prominent business family in the city.

Comparison of crime cases against women in '23 vs '24

In 2024, Bengaluru recorded a rise in sexual harassment cases, increasing from 1,139 in 2023 to 1,247. Similarly, reported incidents of rape saw a slight uptick, moving from 172 cases in 2023 to 178 in 2024. However, the number of dowry-related deaths remained unchanged at 25 for both years. On a positive note, cases of child sexual abuse decreased, with 577 incidents reported in 2024 compared to 596 in 2023. These figures highlight both progress and persisting challenges in addressing crimes against women and children in the city.

NEET-UG 2025 exam to be in pen & paper mode

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has decided to conduct the medical entrance exam NEET-UG in pen-and-paper mode for now. "As decided by the National Medical Commission (NMC), the NEET-UG shall be conducted in pen-and-paper mode (OMR-based) in a single day and shift," a NTA notice said on Thursday.NTA also clarified that the exam will be conducted in a single day and a single shift. "MNS (Military Nursing Service) aspirants seeking admission to BSc Nursing Courses being conducted at Armed Forces Medical Service Hospitals for the year 2025 are required to qualify for NEET (UG). The NEET (UG) score will be used for shortlisting for selection to the four-year B.Sc. Nursing course," the notice further reads.

Notably, more than 24 lakh students participated in the NEET-UG 2024 examination, which was held at 4,750 different centres located in 571 cities throughout the country. The demand for switching to computer-based test (CBT) mode for NEET came following the alleged paper leak controversy last year. — **ANI**

Activists urge BBMP to prioritise welfare of strays

Animal activists criticise lack of transparency & priorities of BBMP Animal Husbandry Dept amid its decision to spend Rs 45 lakh for outreach events

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Even as activists have been asking for various basic facilities for animal welfare, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to spend Rs 45 lakh towards spreading awareness on how to co-exist with dogs.

As per the work order issued on December 31, 2024, by the Animal Husbandry Joint Director to the Managing Director, Karnataka State Marketing Communication & Advertising Limited, the outreach programmes have to be organised at 225 selected locations in BBMP's eight zones, each costing Rs 10,000. Thereby, 30 outreach programmes will be organised in the East Zone (Rs 3,00,000), 25 in the West Zone (Rs 2,50,000), 25 in the South (Rs 2,50,000), 35 in the Bommanahalli Zone (Rs 3,50,000), 25 in RR Nagar Zone (Rs 2,50,000), 25 in Yelahanka (Rs 2,50,000), 25 in Dasarahalli Zone (Rs 2,50,000), and 35 in Mahadevapura Zone (Rs 3,50,000).

As part of the mall activities, the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department has decided to organise 50 flash mob dance programmes in eight zones, and each of them is allocated Rs 20,000. Moreover, Rs 24,000 has been allocated for promoters or helpers (Rs 1,500 for each event). The organisers will get Rs 10,000 for arrangements of each event, with the total cost being Rs 80,000 for eight events.

However, animal activists have termed the outreach programme as a waste of taxpayers' money. "I appreciate the Animal Husbandry Department for taking an initiative to create awareness among the public. I am of the opinion that there should be accountability among the BBMP authorities. They should take stakeholders into confidence before making a decision to spend such a huge amount," said an animal activist.

Sujaya Jagadish, a member of SPCA, said that while the Palike's intention is good, there is serious concern over the lack of public transparency in funding and mismanagement of funds of such initiatives by the BBMP. "While awareness is important, it should not come at the expense of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program and proper infrastructure facilities," she said. She said that there is insufficient focus on vaccination for street dogs, with priority being given to unattainable projects instead. "Additionally, there has been absolutely inadequate

Through outreach events, initiative aims to create awareness among public on how to coexist with strays

collaboration with experienced NGOs and animal activists for any of the lavish programs put out by the BBMP," she added.

Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said that local authorities must use the outreach materials at prominent places provided by the Animal Welfare Board of India/Karnataka Animal Welfare Board under Rule 16(9) of ABC Rules 2023 to sensitise the public on street dog matters. "The WHO guidelines awareness materials must be used. BBMP also has to do advertising strictly in compliance with the Karnataka High Court PIL order dated November 15, 2023, for ads as per Section 2A(1) of BBMP Advertisement Bye Laws 2006. But the current BBMP policy is contrary to it; it needs to be withdrawn, and a new strategy must be devised so as to not waste public money," Prasad said.

Woman sets self on fire, dies

A 24-year-old woman ended her life last week by setting herself on fire in a hotel room under the HAL police station limits. The deceased was a private firm employee in Bengaluru. According to the police, the incident occurred at a hotel near Kundalahalli Metro Station past 8 pm on Saturday (January 12).

The police revealed that the accused, identified as Praveen Singh, had an affair with the victim. The accused later started blackmailing her with her private videos and photos, threatening that he would send them to her parents, and demanded favours once she started distancing herself. On Saturday, when they met to "sort things out," the victim reportedly ended her life by setting herself on fire in the hotel room, which was booked by the accused. The victim later died in the hospital.

The HAL police arrested the accused on Sunday and took him into custody. Police have also recovered a pendrive from the accused and have sent it for forensic analysis. Further details are awaited. (Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help) —**BMB**

'Is white-topping scientific?'

The High Court issued a directive to BBMP on Thursday, seeking clarification regarding the scientific validity of white topping. During the hearing of a 2015 petition by Vijayan Menon concerning pothole repairs and stormwater drain encroachment clearance in Bengaluru, a division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anajaria and Justice MI Arun raised this matter. They questioned whether pothole repairs were conducted regularly or only during monsoons or in response to PILs. BBMP's legal representative committed to providing a response at the next hearing, which is scheduled for February 20. —**BMB**

Learning made simple: K'taka schools pave bilingual path

State rolls out Kannada-English bilingual dictionary in 100 schools to improve language skills, with plans to expand to 400 schools under PMSHRI

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Karnataka's Department of School Education, in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha wing, has developed a Kannada-English bilingual dictionary aimed at enhancing language proficiency among schoolchildren across the State. Inspired by the Andhra Pradesh government's initiative of introducing unique bilingual textbooks in government schools, this project has been launched as a pilot. Over 100 government schools have already received these books, which are expected to improve their reading and writing skills.

Saamuhika Shakti, Bal Raksha Bharat, and the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) - Karnataka have collaboratively introduced curriculum-based bilingual dictionaries tailored for students in grades 1-5 and 6-8. This initiative aims to tackle the bilingual and multilingual challenges faced by children in government schools across Karnataka. Launched on December 24, the program is currently in its orientation phase, where teachers from various schools are being trained to use these dictionaries effectively. Once the orientation is complete, the dictionaries will be integrated into classroom teaching to benefit students.

The Kannada-English bilingual dictionary is designed to enhance language proficiency among young learners, helping them overcome challenges in understanding both English and Kannada. Covering essential subjects such as languages, mathematics, science, and social studies, the dictionary provides simple, accessible definitions, pronunciations, and usage examples in both languages. This makes it a valuable resource for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, supporting their academic and language development effectively.

Saamuhika Shakti, Bal Raksha Bharat and DSERT- Karnataka have launched bilingual dictionaries for grades 1-8 to address bilingual challenges in government schools

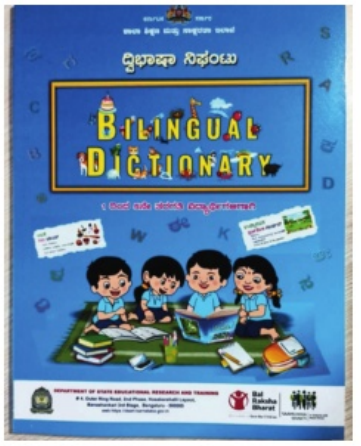
This bilingual dictionary will initially be piloted in 100 government schools across Karnataka and aims to expand to 400 primary schools under the PMSHRI programme.

Malladi Sree Nagesh, Technical Advisor for Education, South India at Bal Raksha Bharat, explained, "The initiative originally began with the Andhra Pradesh government, where a bilingual dictionary was introduced to address challenges faced by children who speak different languages. According to surveys, 30-35% of children struggle with reading and writing due to bilingual, multi-grade, and multi-level challenges. Language plays a crucial role in education, and if students cannot read or write properly, their overall learning is hindered. Many families, especially those from economically weaker backgrounds, are unfamiliar with dictionaries and how to use them. Keeping this in mind, the Andhra Pradesh government developed a curriculum-based bilingual dictionary, identifying critical terms across subjects like English, mathematics, and science, and introduced it for primary school students in government schools."

> **"Language plays crucial role in education, and if students cannot read properly, their learning is hindered**
>
> – Malladi SN, technical advisor

He further added, "After discussing this with the Karnataka government, they were impressed with the concept, and we began working together on it. While in Andhra Pradesh the dictionary was limited to primary school, in Karnataka, we extended it to grades 6-8 and included Hindi as part of the curriculum."

Chandrasekara NM, Head of South India Operations at Bal Raksha Bharat, Bangalore, said, "Karnataka DSERT team visited government schools in Andhra through an exposure visit facilitated by Bal Raksha Bharat during December 2022,



where higher officials and teachers interacted with students and local officials to evaluate the impact of the bilingual dictionary. They observed its effectiveness and recognised the need for a similar initiative in Karnataka. Following this, workshops were organised for primary grades 1-5 as well as grades 6-8, covering subjects like English, Kannada, mathematics, science, environmental science, and Hindi. The primary goal of the dictionary is to provide students with an immediate solution by allowing them to refer to it, understand word meanings, and learn correct pronunciations. Words are arranged alphabetically, with definitions, examples, and pictures, making it easier for students to grasp. Currently, the pilot project is being implemented in 100 government schools."

A training program is being conducted for teachers from 100 schools, covering all subject areas. Based on this training, the teachers will integrate the use of the bilingual dictionary into their teaching methods. After three months, an assessment will be conducted to evaluate the student's progress and benefits from the initiative. If the results show a positive impact, the program will be expanded to other schools across the state.

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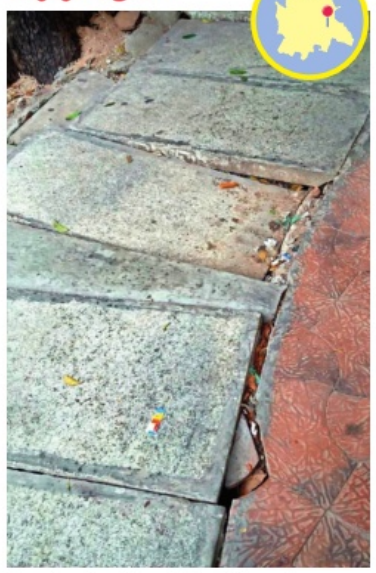
Broken tiles

Chord Road

Several cement tiles have collapsed on streets near West of Chord Road, calling for urgent action from authorities.

Footpath damage

Rajajinagar



The footpath on 52nd Street, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, in Ramamindara Ward is in a terrible condition.

Composting station for flowers and leaves begins at temple

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Residents and volunteers of various non-government organisations have joined hands to transform the temple of Malleswaram into a zero-waste temple by raising environmental consciousness and encouraging low-waste practices. The Kadu Malleswaram Gelayara Balaga, in association with voluntary organisations, inaugurated the temple leaf-flower composting station at Dakshin Mukha Nandi Theertha Temple on Thursday.

"Initially, we started this initiative at Kadu Malleshwara Temple. It was a success. Now, we have started at Dakshina Mukha Nandi Theeratha Temple. Many social organisations have joined hands. We will extend it to other temples shortly," said Aparna from Malleswaram Social. Anoop Iyengar, a Kadu Malleswara Gelayara Balaga member said around ten non-governmental organisations have joined with Gelayara Balaga. "We are using two shredding machines to make flower and leaf waste into compost. This initiative will be extended to other temples in Malleswaram. The revenue generated from the sale of compost and other products from

leaf and flower waste will be given to the temple," said Anoop Iyengar.

Vijaya Shenoy of Malleswaram Social said, "With the support of BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), we have installed a chopper and a shredder in the temple premises for shredding temple leaves, flowers, areca leaf plates, areca palm leaf cups and other temple waste. This would not have been possible without the support of innumerable volunteer groups, concerned citizens, and many Rotary Clubs from other areas. This is the beginning and as with the Green Temple Initiative, our aim is to process the temple waste of all five temples in the cluster of Kadu Malleshwara Temple area," said Vijaya Shenoy.

She appreciated Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited officials for providing a shredder and chopper. "The chopper and shredder were lying idle at the BBMP office. Rotary Bangalore Midtown and Rotary Indiranagar provided finance for repairing the chopper and shredder," she said. Terming the initiative as the first of its kind in the West Zone, Krishnaraj S, a volunteer of Zero Waste Collective, Malleswara, said that he was very happy to start the zero waste initiative at Dakshina Mukha Theeratha Temple. "We did it manually at Kadu Malleshwara Temple for one year to ensure zero waste. Now, we are using machines to ensure zero waste at Dakshina Mukha Theertha Temple," he said.

Panathur Road: Slip, slide, and near miss every day

Panathur-Balagere stretch remains accident-prone with little progress on BBMP's road repairs

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Panathur-Balagere stretch sees daily accidents due to potholes and rough surfaces. Despite the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner directing officials to fix the road by December 31, the situation has only deteriorated, leaving commuters in distress.

In an accident that occurred on Monday, a scooter carrying a couple and two children lost balance before the railway under-bridge (RUB) on a downhill slope. The woman riding the pillion narrowly escaped being crushed under a four-wheeler, with the driver's quick reaction and the timely intervention of bystanders pulling her to safety. Witnesses reported that the poor road condition was the primary cause of the mishap.

KAUSHIK JN

Panathur- Balagere stretch in poor condition, plagued by uneven surfaces

Recurring complaints from motorists

Motorists on social media platform X have been vocal about the poor state of the road. Regular users have shared accounts of minor accidents, emphasising the risk of more severe incidents if the road remains unattended.

Traffic officials had claimed that such incidents go unreported, leading to inaction. However, locals dispute this assertion, maintaining that they have repeatedly raised complaints, only to be met with apathy.

Previous complaints ignored?

The volunteers from Namma Balagere (A citizen forum) said that they have been following this issue for the last 7 years and recently raised this decade-old issue to the BBMP Commissioner when they met him at the Mahadevapura BBMP Zonal Office. "The core issue lies in the painfully slow acquisition of land needed to widen the Panathur S Cross, a bottleneck for traffic jams. This delay has halted the relocation of sewage lines and electrical poles, leaving the stretch in an appalling state. Sewage water overflows onto the road even during dry weather, while the entire 500-metre stretch is riddled with potholes, lacks proper tarring, and is completely unfit for motorists," said a volunteer from Namma Balagere.

The situation recently gained national attention when a disabled woman fell into a pothole, prompting authorities to make commitments. After this, The BBMP Commissioner assured that the work would be completed by December 31, but no significant progress has been made. Construction is proceeding at a snail's pace, adding unnecessary stress to residents, especially office-goers.

Action needed

This stretch, home to nearly 20,000 flats, sees daily traffic of around 30,000 vehicles and 50,000 commuters. Yet, authorities have failed to address the pressing need for road repairs and basic infrastructure improvements.

Despite repeated promises from BBMP, the absence of tangible action underscores the neglect of this critical issue. "It is important to note that September marked 10 years since this issue was first raised, but the promises made by authorities continue to go unfulfilled," a volunteer said.

Panathur-Balagere stretch's condition is not just an infrastructural issue but it is also a public safety crisis demanding immediate attention.

Prajwal's data access petition denied

The Karnataka High Court, during a hearing on Thursday, firmly stated that legal principles cannot be altered merely due to Prajwal Revanna's status. The former JD(S) leader, facing charges of rape and sexual assault, had requested access to documents and electronic evidence from his driver's phone.

The court clarified that whilst inspection of specific images would be permitted, access to data concerning other women would be restricted. Following this decision, the court granted Revanna's inspection request and concluded the matter. Justice M Nagaprasanna verbally assured that copies would be provided whilst protecting women's identities. The State confirmed that relevant copies for the current case had been provided.

Revanna's legal representative noted the initial FSL report's inclusion in the chargesheet and subsequent phone examinations by investigating officers. When the State mentioned the petitioner's request for complete data access, the court explicitly refused to release information about other women.

The court emphasised that the prosecution wasn't relying on all documents. It clarified that Section 207 (CrPC) requires sharing only prosecution-relied evidence, with privacy cases warranting inspection only. The State alleged that Revanna's petition aimed to delay proceedings. The court stressed the need to limit obscenity and questioned the origin of certain images. **-BMB**

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Buffet without binge: Guide to smart eating

Have back-to-back buffet brunches to attend? And afraid of all the calories you might pile on? Worry not, buffets are one of the easiest ways to eat healthy, given most of them include an impressive assortment of vegetables, salads and fresh fruit. All you need is to conquer the mentality of consuming big portions in a bid to get your money's worth.

Scan buffet: The best part about a buffet is that you can see the food before choosing. Once you have seen all that is on offer, choose the ones that seem healthy to you. Find the dishes you want most and zone in on those. Think about creating the perfect plate. If you are a healthy eater, you already know what you should be filling up on, and what you can ignore.

Pick table that is at distance from spread: Distance yourself from the buffet spread. Having to walk a greater distance to fill your plate is likely to curb the quantity you consume.

Salads and curries: Think of your buffet experience as a meal, not a free-for-all. Scan from the wide range of salads, and fill your plate with a wide variety. Mix them with sauces and dressings of your choice. And you are likely to feel fuller before you proceed to creamy or cheesy entrees.

Choose fruit-based dessert: No meal is complete without your favourite dessert. Worry not, you needn't skip the dessert altogether in a buffet spread. Just choose wisely. You may want to try fresh fruits and top it with a spoonful of ice cream. **– Femina**

Conservationist seeks halt to eco-tourism project in forest

Environment Ministry urged to stop state's Roerich Estate plan, citing harm to wildlife; project, involving permanent structures, threatens city's remaining green spaces

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Reports on the Karnataka Government and tourism department's plan to convert Devika Rani and Roerich Estate on Kanakapura Road into an eco-tourism destination have prompted a city-based conservationist to approach the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

In a letter addressed to the Deputy Director General of Forests, MoEF&CC, the conservationist has urged the Ministry to issue directions to the state government to drop the project.

"I have requested the Ministry to issue directions to the state government to not take up the eco-tourism Project at Devika Rani and Roerich Estate without approval from the Centre under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. MoEF&CC should also issue directions to the government to adhere to its eco-tourism guidelines issued in 2021. This is in the interest of forest and wildlife conservation," said Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist.

Notably, the state Tourism Department has proposed to develop Devika Rani and Roerich Estate as an eco-tourism and cultural hub with a budget of Rs 99 Crore. Under the project, the department will be creating permanent structures such as an entrance plaza, visitor parking, safari parking, cafeteria, information centre, over the bridge, cottages, golghar, golf court, open-air theatre, aviary, zip line, butterfly garden, etc.

According to Kulkarni, Devika Rani and Roerich Estate has a dry deciduous forest and is one of the last remaining lung spaces of Bengaluru, a city that is losing its green cover at an alarming pace due to rapid urbanisation. Moreover, out of the 470 acres of the estate, nearly 100 acres is notified as a reserve forest and the remaining area has been notified as deemed forest by the Government of Karnataka.

File photo of Roerich Estate

> **"The project is likely to escalate human-wildlife conflicts around city as it may result in development of other infrastructure around estate**
>
> –Giridhar K, conservationist

"Any non-forestry activity on forest land, either in reserve forest or deemed forest would invariably attract the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Under the Act, the diversion of forest land for eco-tourism, involving permanent structures, is impermissible as per guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021 issued by MoEF&CC in October 2021. The estate area also abuts the UM Kaval State Forest and is strategically located between Bannerghatta National Park and Savandurga Forest which is an elephant corridor too," said Kulkarni.

The letter to MoEF&CC also highlights that the estate is home to many other wildlife such as smooth-coated otters, chital, rusty spotted cats, muntjac, etc., based on a study conducted by the Nature Conservation Foundation in 2017. The study also highlights the possibility of the presence of leopards in the area.

"The project, if implemented, is likely to escalate human-wildlife conflicts in and around the city as it may result in the development of residential layouts, roads, and other infrastructure around the estate. Therefore, the possible threats to forests and wildlife should not be seen as a standalone but a holistic view is the need of the hour. The precious and last remaining forests of Bengaluru should not be sacrificed for such projects and must be discouraged. It is one amongst the series of ill-planned and improperly cited development projects," added Kulkarni.

Wait at the signal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

these signals are expected to be operational. However, synchronisation remains a key challenge.

"After setting up a traffic signal, we analyse the vehicle-actuated count (VAC) to decide the green time. The system reads the data patterns for at least 3 to 4 weeks to optimise it. Only after this stage can we proceed to synchronise it with adjacent signals. This process takes time but will ultimately yield better traffic flow," explained a senior traffic official.

Adding to this effort, the traffic police have identified 52 locations where signals were either missing or required upgrades. Some of these signals are new Japanese models installed under the MODERETA scheme, while others were relocated from areas where they were underutilised. Additionally, 25 to 30 unused signals were shifted to new locations to enhance efficiency.

Positive response

However, the setting up of the new traffic signal at Mariyappana Palya has reduced accidents and other issues, explained a traffic official. White-topping work on Amma Ashrama Road has led to its temporary closure, causing a significant increase in traffic flow on alternative routes. In response to frequent accidents and complaints from residents about speeding motorists, a traffic signal was recently installed at a key junction on this road.

"The signal has made a positive impact, with a noticeable reduction in accidents," said a traffic official. Synchronisation of the signal is still pending, and two traffic cops are deployed daily to manage the flow. While the current situation is causing inconvenience to commuters, the issue is expected to ease once the white-topping and road widening work is completed in about a month. With the reopening of the road and synchronisation of the signal, traffic flow is anticipated to improve significantly.

The efforts, while commendable, have caused temporary inconvenience for daily commuters. Authorities are urging patience, promising improved traffic management once synchronisation is complete.

*(*Names changed)*

Shuttle buses in IT hub? Uber, transport dept discuss plan

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In a bid to address the growing traffic woes in Bengaluru's tech corridor, Uber Aggregator Company has initiated discussions with the Transport Department to launch a shuttle bus service. Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), a hub for IT and BT companies, plays a pivotal role in India's economic growth. The tech corridor, stretching from Central Silk Board to KR Puram, houses nearly 30 tech parks and employs over 1.5 million people.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, remote work (WFH) significantly reduced vehicle movement in the area. However, with the lifting of restrictions and employees returning to offices, traffic congestion has become a daily challenge in and around the tech corridor.

Traffic woes and financial losses

Over 4 lakh vehicles ply the tech corridor daily, worsening traffic jams, especially during heavy rains and on poorly maintained roads. Key bottlenecks identified include Yemalur Junction, Panathur Junction, Bellandur Lake Junction, Ecospace Gate, and Sakra Hospital, among others. An 18-km stretch from Central Silk Board to KR Puram witnesses severe traffic at 36 locations, contributing to an annual economic loss of $15 billion due to delays, signal stoppages, and congestion, according to a study.

What is Uber shuttle bus service?

The proposed shuttle bus service aims to provide IT professionals with a comfortable and convenient travel option. Equipped with air-conditioned buses, the service will offer affordable fares. Users can book their seats in advance through the Uber app, with reservations available up to a week prior. Real-time tracking of buses, including expected arrival times, will also be facilitated via the app. "Uber has sought permission to launch this service targeting IT employees. Discussions have been held with company representatives, and if approved, Uber plans to operate 200 air-conditioned buses on the Outer Ring Road tech corridor initially. Buses will run at three-minute intervals," a Transport Department official stated.

Propsed shuttle services offer IT professionals convenience & comfort

Sustainable alternative to public transport

Sources said that the Uber shuttle bus service has already been successfully introduced in cities like New Delhi and Kolkata, receiving positive feedback from users. If implemented in Bengaluru, the service could become a cost-effective and efficient alternative to public transport while reducing the traffic load in the tech corridor.

5% PG fee hike on the cards

Association members discussing raising rents due to sky-rocketing operational costs; paying accommodation residents wonder if quality of stay would be raised too

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Bengaluru Paying Guest (PG) Owners Association has announced plans to increase PG accommodation fees by 5% starting from the 2025 financial year. The decision, according to the association, comes in response to rising operational costs, including increased utility charges, maintenance expenses, and compliance with regulatory standards.

The hike is expected to impact a significant number of residents across the city, especially students and working professionals, who rely heavily on PG accommodations due to Bengaluru's burgeoning rental market and housing shortage.

Final decision on PG prices to be taken after January 25

Reasons for the hike

Association president Arun Kumar cited inflationary pressures as the primary driver behind the decision. "The cost of running PG accommodations has not increased considerably over the past four years.

From electricity tariffs and water supply charges to building rents and staff salaries, every aspect of operations has seen a surge. The 5% hike is necessary to ensure continued quality and sustainability," he told the media.

> **From electricity tariffs and water supply charges to building rents and staff salaries, every aspect of operations has seen a surge. The 5% hike is necessary**
>
> –Arun Kumar, association president

He added that the association is committed to maintaining the standards of safety and comfort that residents expect. He said, "From milk, vegetables, water to electricity bills, the price of everything has been raised by 15%, hence we are still on decision to increase by 5% -- that is if PG fee is Rs 7,000 then it will become Rs 7,300. We are not looking for profit but to balance our earnings."

PG residents' reactions

The announcement has sparked mixed reactions among PG residents. While some understand the association's need to adjust fees, others expressed concerns about affordability in an already expensive city.

"I understand their point about rising costs, but it's becoming harder for us to manage our monthly budgets. Many of us are already struggling with high rents, food costs, and transportation," said Priya Sharma, a tech professional staying in a PG

On the other hand, other PG residents were optimistic about the improvements. "If the hike actually leads to better facilities, it's justified. However, we hope there's transparency in how the additional funds are used because sometimes we pay so much but in return we don't get anything for what we pay."

Arya, a PG resident, said that she can attest that many PGs do not meet basic standards. "Rooms are cramped, hygiene is questionable, and essential amenities like water and electricity are unreliable. The food quality is often poor, lacking nutrition and variety, leaving students with no choice but to spend extra on outside meals. Despite these glaring issues, the monthly fees are already unreasonably high. The recent hikes only add to the financial strain without any improvement in living conditions. It's unfair for students to pay premium prices for substandard accommodations that fail to meet even basic expectations."

PGs have traditionally been the go-to choice for affordability and convenience, especially for newcomers to the city. A consistent rise in costs might push people toward other housing options. However the association members said the final decision will be taken only after January 25.

India becomes fourth country to achieve space docking, announces ISRO

In its first, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday morning announced that the much-awaited satellite docking has been concluded, with India becoming the fourth country to do the same.

"India became the 4th country to achieve successful Space Docking. Congratulations to the entire team! Congratulations to India," ISRO posted on X.

The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) docking process completed manoeuvring from 15 metres to 3 metres hold point with precision, leading to successful spacecraft capture.

"SpaDeX Docking Update: Docking Success Spacecraft docking successfully completed! A historic moment. Let's walk through the SpaDeX docking process: Manoeuvre from 15m to 3m hold point completed. Docking was initiated with precision, leading to successful spacecraft capture. Retraction was completed smoothly, followed by rigidisation for stability. Docking successfully completed," ISRO announced.

Isro further said, "Post docking, control of two satellites as a single object is successful. Undocking and power transfer checks to follow in coming days."

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said this paves the way for the smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bharatiya Antriksha Station and Chandrayaan 4. Earlier, SpaDeX project director N Surendran said that this experiment would prove fruitful for future assignments like the Bharatiya Antariksha Station and the Chandrayaan-4 mission since the docking mechanism was becoming necessary.

SpaDeX docking process completed a precise manoeuvre

"It is one of the experiments that we are going to prove in orbit, which is going to be useful for future assignments or projects assigned to us like our Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian Space Station) and the Chandrayaan-4 mission. In the two complex and challenging projects, this docking mechanism is becoming an inevitable requirement," Surendran told ANI.

The primary objective of the SpaDeX mission is to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for rendezvous, docking, and undocking of two small spacecraft (SDX01, which is the Chaser, and SDX02, the Target, nominally) in a low-Earth circular orbit.

The objectives also include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations after undocking.

ISRO had on December 30 launched PSLV-C60 with SpaDeX and innovative payloads. **–ANI**

Eco boost to 4 wildlife sanctuaries

A cabinet sub-committee headed by Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has given in-principal approval for declaring an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) for four wildlife sanctuaries in the state.

Thus, ESZ protection has now been extended to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in Chikkamagaluru district, Bankapura Wolf Wildlife Sanctuary in Koppal, Uttaregudda Wildlife Sanctuary in Chitradurga, and Arasikere Karadi Wildlife Sanctuary in Hassan district.

The proposals will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for issuing final notification.

As per the ESZ guidelines issued by the Center in 2011, it is important to identify such areas around wildlife sanctuaries and national parks as they act as shock absorbers for the protected areas. The ESZ Notification does not involve displacement and evacuation of farmers/people living in the villages. The prohibited activities in the ESZ commercial mining, stone quarrying, and crushing units, major hydroelectric projects, handling of hazardous substances, discharge of untreated effluents, and setting up of polluting industries with a high potential for environmental damage.

As such, there is no prohibition on ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities, dairy farming, aquaculture, fisheries, poultry farms, goat farms, etc. **–BMB**

STEM labs for all

The Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), operating under the Social Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka, has got brand new state-of-the-art STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) labs in Kolar, Chikkaballapura, and Bengaluru Rural districts. These labs are equipped with computers, smart boards, projectors, and science equipment, to inspire students through hands-on learning and exploration.

Mahadeva SK, a representative from KREIS, highlighted the inclusivity of the organisation, stating, "KREIS is home to SC/ST and other backward categories. Fifty percent of seats are reserved for children from special categories, including manual scavengers, safai karmacharis, ex-devadasis, rag pickers, graveyard workers, children of HIV-positive parents, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, migrant workers, orphans, and rescued child labourers. This inclusivity ensures that the most marginalised children have access to quality education and a chance to succeed." In addition to STEM labs, KREIS has received support from organisations donating resources like digital libraries, ICT labs, and equipment. "Through CSR support, many firms have established STEM labs in schools," added Mahadeva. **–BMB**

Hampi temple bans bananas to prevent overfeeding of elephant

A 7th-century shrine of Lord Shiva in Hampi has banned bananas in its premises, stating that devotees tend to overfeed the temple elephant as well as litter the place of worship with banana peels.

The management of Virupaksha temple said on Thursday that they decided on the ban for the good of the temple, the elephant as well as the devotees.

"We saw that the devotees get overzealous in their attempts to feed the elephant, which is not only harmful to the elephant concerned, but it also makes the place very dirty. The devotees leave behind banana peels and even the plastic bags that they bring the bananas in," said Hanaumantappa, temple endowment officer, to PTI.

The temple authorities also said ever since the reports of the ban came out, they have been getting a lot of calls asking about the ban. Hanaumantappa appealed to people not to take the banana ban out of context and make it into a controversy. "This is a local matter. We made the decision based purely on what was happening inside our temple premises," added Hanaumantappa.

Virupaksha temple is often referred to as 'Dakshin Kashi' and it sees at least 5,000 devotees every day. On special days and weekends, the crowd surges further, reaching even 50,000 a day, said sources from the temple. —PTI

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I, Afshin Taj W/o Syed Chand Pasha R/o #423 Shikharipalya Hulimangala Jigani B'lore-560105 have changed my name to Afshin Taj K.

I, Shreen taj, R/at Ward 026, Rajiv gandhi layout, Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur-562105 have changed my name to Shireen Taj, For all purpose

WE Father Parminder Singh and Mother Reena Kumari R/o E203 MIMS Residency Agrahara Sampigehalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064 have changed our minor sons name from Aditya Singh Pilyal to Aditya Singh

I, Manjula Kumaraswamy R/o No.111, 3rd cross, 3rd main, Railway Lyt, 1st stage, Ullal main road, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Manjula Siddaiah (Manjula S) Affidavit Dt.16/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, CHETHANA, Residing at No. 3-135, Shankaranarayana Village, Udupi, Karnataka Pin 576227, have changed my name to CHETHAN JOGI, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Vahida, R/at No.204, 12th Cross, Opp. Jamiya masjid main road, Ilyas nagar, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Waheed khan, affidavit dt: 16.01.2025 Notary H.R. Panduranga, B.lore.

I, Nikita Jain, 38 years, W/o. Siddhant Jain r/a B210, Anisha Grange, Kaggadaspura, 6th Cross, Bengaluru 93 changed my name from Nikita Jain to NIKITA SIDDHANT JAIN vide Notary affidavit dtd 09-01-2025.

I Asha KA W/o Suresh BP R/o No 49, Krishna Layout, Kengeri, Bangalore have changed my name from Asha Suresh Basavarajapura Puttegowda to Asha KA for all future purpose

I, Palarikandy Mustapha (P K Mustapha) S/o Abdulla R/o #201, 2nd floor, 5th Cross, C K Nagar, Electronic City Post, B'luru-560100 have changed my name to Palarikandy Musthafa (P K Musthafa) for all purposes

I, Vaishali Sanjeev Samanta D/o Sanjeev Samanta R/o #304, 3rd Floor, Plot no. 303, 1st cross, Cambridge Layout, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560008 have changed my name to Vaishali Samanta for all purposes.

I Pramesh Rao Madhukara Rao S/O, Madhukara Rao Dinakar R/o A1306, Purva Palm Beach, Elus Road, Kothannur, Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to Pramesh Rao Madhukara.

I, Siddhant Jain, 40 years, S/o. Santoshkumar Jain r/a B201, Anisha Grange, Kaggadaspura 29 Cross, Bengaluru 93 changed my name from Siddhant Jain to SIDDHANT SANTOSHKUMAR JAIN vide affidavit dt 9.1.2025.

I, Reetu Sharma R/O Flat No 323, Desai Green Garden, Balaji Layout, Dasarahalli, Blr-560024. I changed my name from Reetu Thapa to Reetu Sharma for all future purposes.

I, Reyaz Ahmed Kasimazamat hulla, R/at No.34, 3rd floor, 1st Main road, Hidayath Nagar, K.G Halli, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Riyaz Ahmed, For all purpose.

I, Asgar Shaik Ibrahim, R/at No.80, Armstrong Road, Makan Compound, Auto Garage, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore-560001, have changed my name to Asgar Shaik, For all purpose

I, Siddiq Ahmed S/o Khanji Miyan R R/o #176 , 3rd Floor 1st Main 12th Cross Bapuji Nagar B'lore-560026 have changed my name to Siddiq Ahmed K.

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HEALTH TIP: Eating too much before you exercise can leave you feeling sluggish

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In remission from cancer

After Princess of Wales' statement, a look at what that means

Catherine, Princess of Wales, has announced that she is now in remission from cancer, following a year of health challenges for the royal family.

The princess's cancer journey began with a planned abdominal surgery in January 2024, which initially led to her stepping back from royal duties. The subsequent cancer diagnosis, revealed in March, came as a shock to many. The princess announced that she had completed her chemotherapy treatment in September 2024.

Despite having exceptional resources and access to world-class medical care, Kate acknowledged the treatment as "incredibly challenging" and "such a shock". Even with the best care and a supportive environment, chemotherapy is known for its potential side effects. Her candid admission demonstrates that even those in privileged positions are not immune to the physical and emotional toll of such treatments.

The princess's latest statement, expressing relief at being in remission and focusing on recovery, reflects the complex emotions that often accompany this stage of the cancer journey. Her acknowledgement that it takes time to adjust to a "new normal" resonates with many cancer survivors navigating life after treatment. This period of adjustment can involve physical recovery, emotional processing and a reevaluation of life priorities.

Catherine, Princess of Wales talks with Katherine Field during a visit to The Royal Marsden Hospital on January 14, 2025 in London, Britain

What is remission?

The concept of remission in cancer treatment is crucial to understand. While it's a relief to hear the word "remission", it indicates a decrease or a disappearance of cancer signs and symptoms and does not necessarily equate to a cure.

Typically, the term remission is used by doctors when all signs and symptoms of cancer have disappeared, although microscopic cancer cells may still be present in the body. These can exist at levels undetectable by tests including scans.

This means that sometimes, even when we think people are in a remission, the cancer can come back and return even many years later. This is well recognised and both detection rates and treatments are improving, as is the actual cure rate in cancer.

Advancements in medical technology have introduced new methods for monitoring cancer remission. I've researched one such innovation: the analysis of cell-free DNA in the blood. This technique allows for the detection of cancer genetic material circulating in the bloodstream, providing a more sensitive method for monitoring cancer presence and potential recurrence.

Such advancements enable medical professionals to tailor treatment plans more precisely to individual patients, potentially improving outcomes, including the cure rate and quality of life during and after cancer treatment.

Hope and influence

The Princess of Wales's decision to share her cancer experience is welcomed by many oncologists, including me. By openly discussing her diagnosis and treatment, she has brought significant attention to the importance of early detection and prompt treatment of cancer.

The Princess of Wales's cancer journey extends beyond her personal experience. It has the potential to positively influence public health policy, research funding, and societal attitudes towards cancer.

This level of visibility from a prominent public figure helps to normalise conversations about cancer, potentially encouraging others to be more proactive about their health and to seek medical attention for concerning symptoms without delay or embarrassment.

While every cancer journey is unique, with its own challenges and triumphs, the princess's openness about her experience may provide comfort and inspiration to countless others navigating their own health challenges. News of the princess's remission, then, could inspire other patients undergoing treatment, showcasing the potential for positive outcomes.

The princess's experience also sheds light on the holistic nature of cancer care. While medical treatment is crucial, the support of family, friends and the wider community plays a vital role in the recovery process. Her focus on family during treatment – and gradual return to public life – demonstrate the importance of balancing medical needs with emotional and social support.

As the Princess of Wales looks forward to a "fulfilling year ahead," her story underscores the importance of hope, quality medical care and a strong support system when confronting a cancer diagnosis.

Overall, the princess's journey from cancer diagnosis to remission is a testament to the advances in modern medicine and the power of personal resilience. Her experience, shared on a global stage, serves as a beacon of hope for many and a reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by cancer patients worldwide.

As she continues her recovery and gradually returns to public life, her story will undoubtedly continue to inspire and educate, contributing to a broader understanding of cancer and its impact on patients and society as a whole.

(By Justin Stebbing, Anglia Ruskin University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Toddler aggression

Recognise The Red Flags
The first step in handling toddler aggression is to identify the triggers that lead to such behaviour. It could be frustration, fatigue, hunger, or even overstimulation. By recognising these signs, parents can preemptively address them and prevent outbursts.

Foster Emotional Regulation
Encouraging emotional literacy is the key. Parents can teach toddlers to express their feelings using words instead of physical actions. By acknowledging their emotions and providing them with the vocabulary to articulate their feelings, parents can help toddlers develop a better understanding of their emotional landscape.

Provide Positive Reinforcement
One could encourage positive behaviour through praise and rewards. When toddlers exhibit appropriate responses to situations that previously led to aggression, acknowledging and celebrating their positive actions can reinforce these behaviours.

Set The Boundaries
Establishing clear and consistent boundaries is important. Toddlers need to understand which behaviours are acceptable and which are not. By setting firm yet nurturing limits, parents can help toddlers comprehend the expectations for their conduct.

Model Healthy Behavior
Children often imitate the behaviour of their parents and people with whom they spend most of their time. It is important for parents to model healthy ways of managing emotions and conflict. Demonstrating effective communication, patience, and empathy can significantly influence how toddlers learn to regulate their emotions.

Encourage Physical Outlets
Providing opportunities for physical activity and play can serve as a constructive outlet for a toddler's energy and frustration. Engaging in activities that promote physical movement can help reduce instances of their aggression. —Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study links maternal exposure to air pollution before pregnancy with childhood obesity risk

Greater exposure to air pollution particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in the three months before conception can raise the risk of childhood obesity to two years after birth, according to a study on Thursday.

Past research has linked air pollution exposure during pregnancy to a broad range of health problems in children, including respiratory issues and a higher risk for chronic diseases such as obesity and heart problems.

But, the new study by an international team of researchers from the US and China focused on the preconception period -- typically defined as the three months before a pregnancy begins.

Environmental exposures during this timeframe can affect the health of sperm and eggs, which are in their final stages of growth, said the team, in the paper published in the journal Environmental Research.

The study included 5,834 mother-child pairs recruited from maternity clinics in Shanghai.

The findings revealed that increased exposure to PM2.5, PM10, and NO2 before pregnancy can spike BMI or BMIZ -- a standardised score that shows how a child's BMI compares to others of the same age and sex.

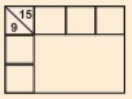
"These findings imply that the three months before conception are important, and that people who plan to bear children should consider taking measures to lower their air pollution exposure to reduce their children's risk for obesity," said Jiawen Liao, postdoctoral research associate at the Keck School of Medicine, University of South California (USC).

The researchers found that a higher level of exposure to PM2.5 during the preconception period was associated with a 0.078 increase in child BMIZ at age two, while a higher level of exposure to PM10 was associated with a 0.093 kg/m2 increase in BMI at age two.

From six months onward, children with higher preconception exposure to all three pollutants had higher weight, BMI, and BMIZ growth rates.

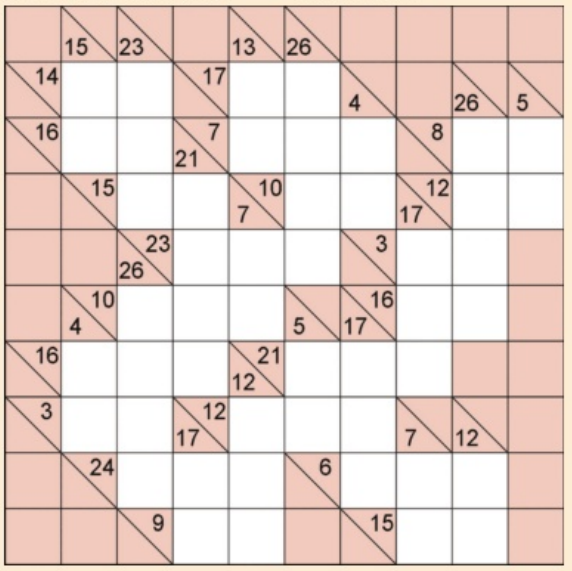
While "the magnitude is small, but because air pollution is widespread and everybody is exposed, the risk of air pollution exposure on children's obesity risk may be substantial and may start before their mothers' pregnancy," said Zhanghua Chen, assistant professor at the Keck School. —PTI

Kakuro

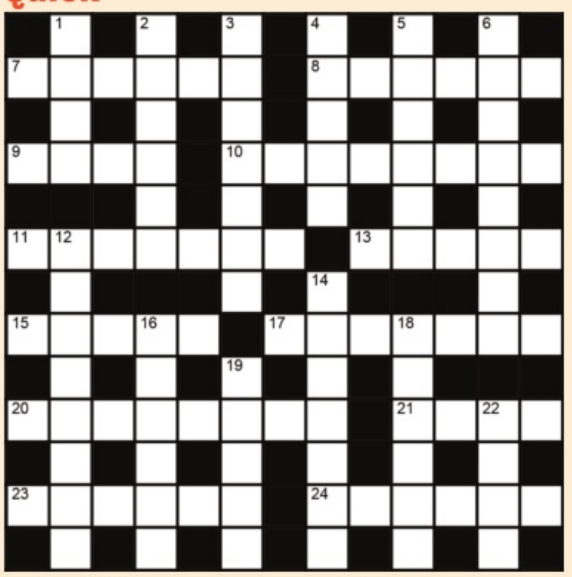


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Greek oracle site (6)
8 Water-depth measure (6)
9 A heavenly body (4)
10 Bulbous plant (8)
11 Unpredictable (7)
13 Aids (5)
15 City in North Karnataka (5)
17 Strange, unfamiliar or unheard of? (7)
20 Have a wish for, colloquially speaking? (4,4)
21 Tattered clothing (4)
23 Sicilian volcano (2,4)
24 Antelopes (6)

DOWN

1 Tyre manufacturer - "tace" anagram ? (4)
2 Ancient Greek city (6)
3 Part of the sternum (7)
4 Entrails, etc (5)
5 Hit (6)
6 Left-hander (8)
12 Gambling game - the Russian variety is deadly! (8)
14 Exhales violently (7)
16 Mrs Pawar of Hindi movies (6)
18 Ordinary, usual (6)
19 Saturn's moon - "as mim" anagram (5)
22 Deities (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS P

PYLT VTYVIT DTZH CNHTT WJBOP YE CHYXDIT -CNT YBTP CNTM'UT NZO, CNT YBTP CNTM NZUT, ZBO CNT YBTP CNTM TGVTRC CY NZUT .

Linemaro

I thought happiness started with an H. But I know mine is starting with U

Mindchow

Convalescence is the part that makes illness worthwhile

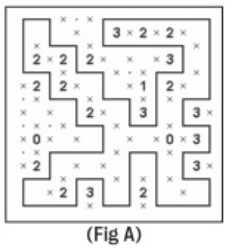
Joke of the day

Man: Do you have a book called, 'Husband — The master of the wife'?
Salesgirl: The fiction department is on the other side, sir

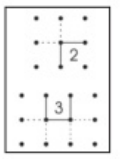
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



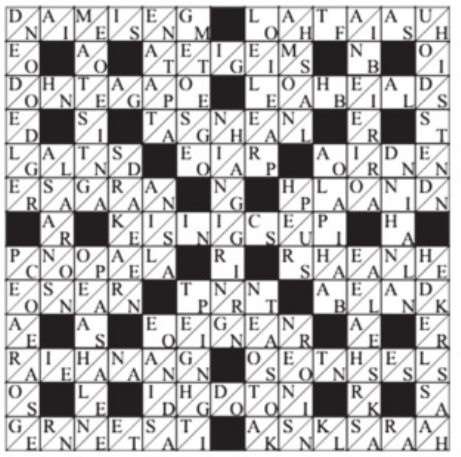
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

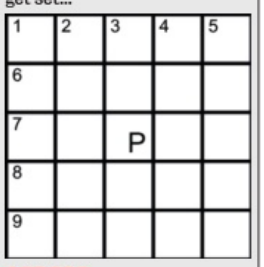
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

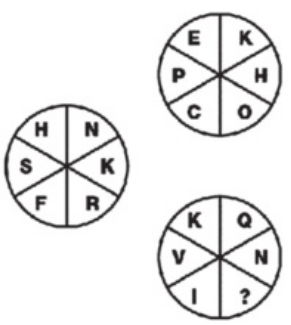
1 Sh flu; 6 Olent;
7 Lam up; 8 Mien I;
9 Angry

DOWN

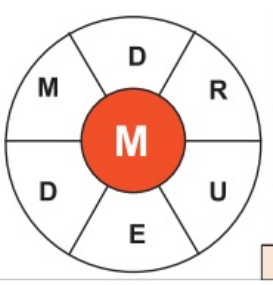
1 Frail; 2 Ma elm;
3 Up inn; 4 Tungs;
5 He Loy

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

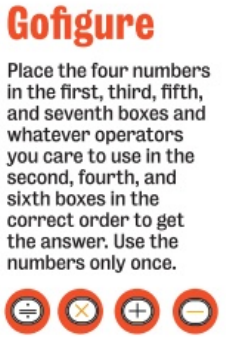
SudokuChallenge

	7		3		9		8	
	5			1			4	
3								2
	3	4		5		9	7	
			1		3			
	6	2		9		1	5	
8								5
	9			8			1	
	4		7		2		6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 1
4 5 5 7

Medium = 12
6 6 4 2

Hard = 25
2 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

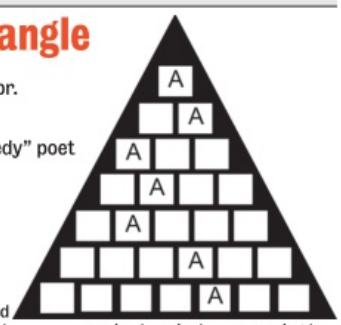
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Hat is different. 4. Stick is longer. 5. Glove is shorter. 6. Stripe is added.

Riddler

The letter "o" has been removed from the following words. Can you guess them all?
1) ppsitin 2) rthdx 3) cckat 4) prtbell 5) vd

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 Not available, abbr.
3 In addition
4 Hamlet,e.g.
5 "The Divine Comedy" poet
6 Hold
7 Rebellious

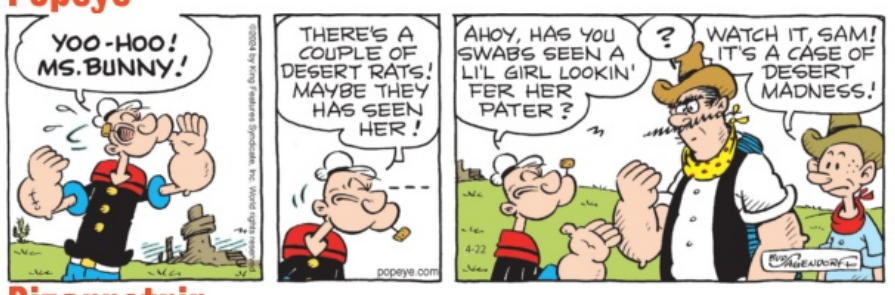


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

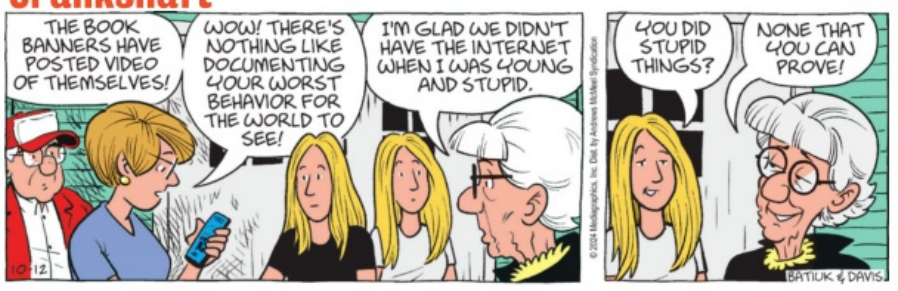

YOO-HOO! MS.BUNNY!
THERE'S A COUPLE OF DESERT RATS! MAYBE THEY HAS SEEN HER!
AHOY, HAS YOU SWABS SEEN A LI'L GIRL LOOKIN' FER HER PATER?
?
WATCH IT, SAM! IT'S A CASE OF DESERT MADNESS!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


THE BOOK BANNERS HAVE POSTED VIDEO OF THEMSELVES!
WOW! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE DOCUMENTING YOUR WORST BEHAVIOR FOR THE WORLD TO SEE!
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T HAVE THE INTERNET WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND STUPID.
YOU DID STUPID THINGS?
NONE THAT YOU CAN PROVE!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day. Domestic harmony will bring you happiness. You may meet an influential person who could provide career benefits. Your job performance will be strong, and promotions or rewards may be on the horizon. Disputes regarding inherited property may also settle down.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will boost your confidence. Your goals will be clearer, and you're likely to achieve success. Creativity will be enhanced, and you'll take an interest in arts, movies, and real-life objects. By the end of the day, you'll feel satisfied, and your opponents will be under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may experience mixed feelings today. It is advised that you avoid setting high expectations upon others to prevent disappointment. Self-exploration and introspection will help you clarify your goals. After this, you will feel confident and prepared to take on new challenges.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
There may be some negativity around you today, making you feel down. Responsibilities may feel burdensome, and you may rush through tasks, leading to mistakes. Efficiency might drop, affecting your work. It's advised to seek advice from elders or consultants before making any major decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a positive day for you. On the professional front, your hard work will pay off, and you'll complete tasks ahead of schedule, boosting your confidence. A short work-related trip may present opportunities to expand your network and prove beneficial in the future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; you may expect to receive some inherited assets. Patience will be key in your work today, enhancing your efficiency. You'll approach others with politeness, making it easier to accomplish tasks. Your communication skills may bring new business opportunities, helping you progress on the work front.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the moon's blessing will give you patience, allowing you to handle work-related stress calmly. You will enjoy a peaceful balance between work and home life. Your parents' health will improve, and you may hear some good news from your siblings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel unhappy as old health issues resurface, causing impatience. It is advised that you be mindful of spending money on unnecessary things. Control your temper, especially in relationships. Lovebirds should avoid petty arguments to prevent misunderstandings or breakups.

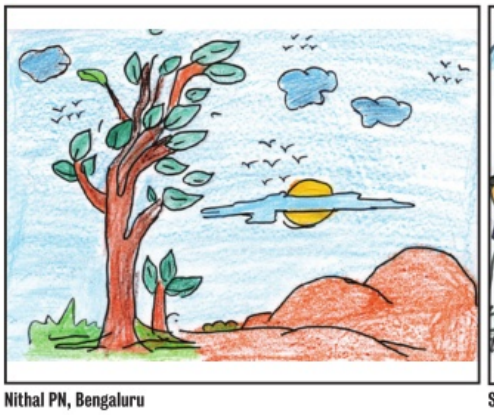
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day. You will experience balance in both your personal and professional life today. Your polite nature will make it easier to complete tasks. New sources of income may boost your savings, and you may plan to renovate your home or office. Job holders may expect promotions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Work will keep you busy today, but with the elder's blessings, you'll implement new innovations in your career. Adhering to ethical standards and rules will bring you peace and inner strength. Your commitment to honesty will support your success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll be content with your work responsibilities today and may plan a short work-related trip. A visit to a religious place will help you maintain inner peace. Your mentors or gurus may guide you, offering clarity and insight into your goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull and are advised to stay calm. Think carefully before taking any action. You may need to travel to recover some money. You might also feel drawn to occult practices. You are advised to avoid adventurous trips today. Students are encouraged to engage in deep study for success.

KIDZONE



Nithal PN, Bengaluru

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$(32 + 4)^{-½} = \sqrt{36} = 6$

BULL'S EYE
demurr, drum, DRUMMED

QUOTE UNCODE
Some people bear three kinds of trouble -the ones they've had, the ones they have, and the ones they expect to have.

RIDDLER
1) opposition,
2) orthodox,
3) cockatoo,
4) portobello &
5) voodoo

FAST FIVE

F	L	U	S	H
L	E	N	T	O
A	M	P	U	L
I	M	I	N	E
R	A	N	G	Y

STRIKE OUT

E	R	N	E	S	T		A	N	K	A	R	A		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
U. Start with the letters in the left hand circle. Subtract 3 from the numerical values of each letter, and put the letter with this value in the corresponding segments of the upper circle. Repeat this pattern, adding 3 to the results in letters, and putting the corresponding segments of the lower circle.

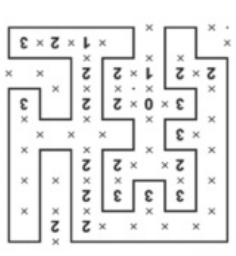
SUDOKU

5	4	1	7	3	2	8	6	9
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	7
8	2	7	9	6	1	4	3	5
7	6	2	4	9	8	1	5	3
9	8	5	1	7	3	6	2	4
1	3	4	2	5	6	9	7	8
3	1	8	6	4	5	7	9	2
2	5	9	8	1	7	3	4	6
4	7	6	3	2	9	5	8	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, NA, And,
Dane, Dante,
Detain, Defiant.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$7 - 5 - 5 + 4 = 1$
Medium
$6 + 2 / 4 \times 6 = 12$
Hard
$5 \times 4 + 7 - 2 = 25$

LOOP



KAKURO

			9	8	1		6	9
		24	8	9	7	2	1	3
	3	1	2	4	1	7		
16	3	9	4	8	9			
4		7	2	1	5	17	7	9
		26	8	6	9	3	1	2
15	7	9	7	8	7	4	2	1
14	8	6	9	8	4	26	5	

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Escape route — Police are examining the CCTV footage showing the intruder who allegedly attacked actor Saif Ali Khan at his Bandra apartment with a knife escaping through the staircase, officials said

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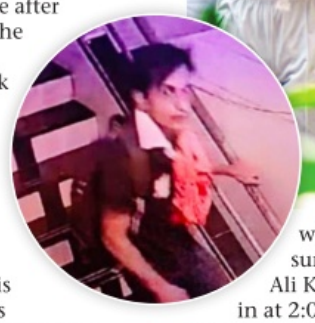
Saif attacker first glimpse out

Actor recovering well, say docs as celebs rush to hospital to visit

Soha, Sara, Ibrahim and Kareena at the hospital

The entire film industry was left shocked after Saif Ali Khan was stabbed multiple times during an attempted robbery. A CCTV footage (centre pic) has been doing rounds on social media where the attacker is caught running away from the staircase following the incident.

The attacker was captured on the staircase of the sixth floor in the CCTV footage after the incident on the 12th floor.



The incident took place at 2:15 am on 16th January 2025 when the burglar allegedly entered the actor's Bandra home through his younger son Jeh's room. As he attacked their house help, Saif Ali Khan was woken up by the commotion. Saif Ali Khan suffered 6 wounds during the defense, out of which 2 were close to the spine.

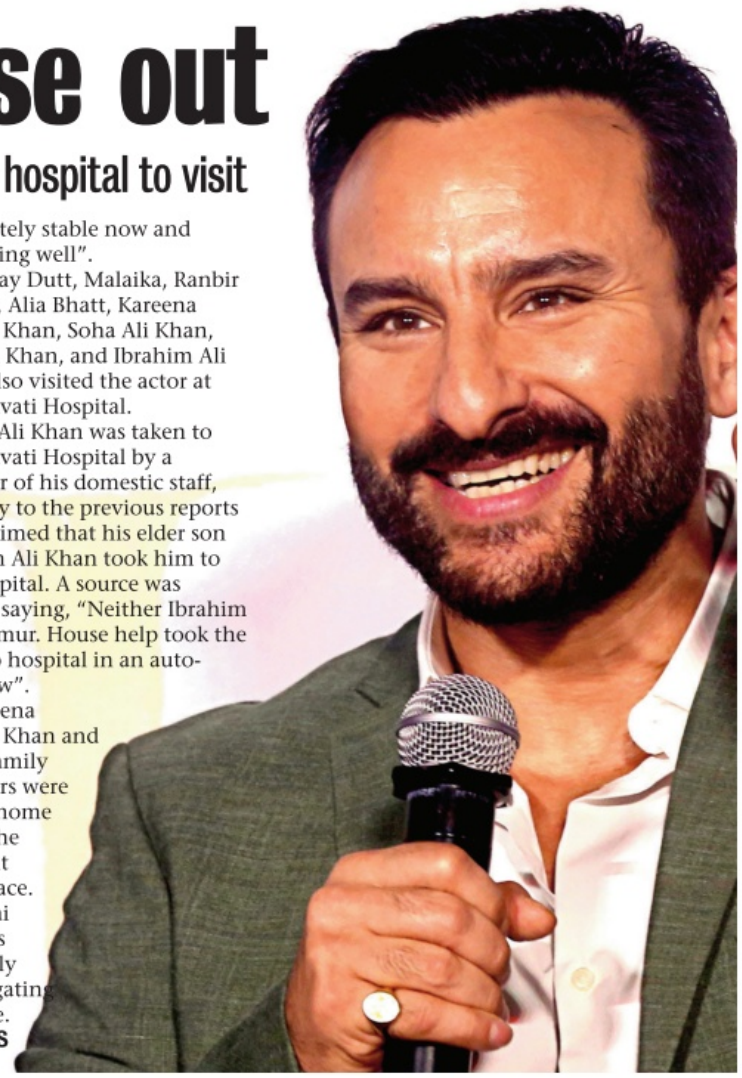
Saif Ali Khan even had to undergo surgery at the Lilavati hospital. Doctor Nitin Dange, who was part of the surgery stated, "Saif Ali Khan was admitted in at 2:00 am. He sustained major injury to the spinal cord, in the thoracic spinal cord due to the lodged knife in the spine. Surgery was performed to remove the knife and also repair the leaking spinal fluid. Two other deep wounds on his left hand and neck were repaired by the plastic surgery team. He is completely stable now and recovering well".

Sanjay Dutt, Malaika, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Soha Ali Khan, Sara Ali Khan, and Ibrahim Ali Khan also visited the actor at the Lilavati Hospital.

Saif Ali Khan was taken to the Lilavati Hospital by a member of his domestic staff, contrary to the previous reports that claimed that his elder son Ibrahim Ali Khan took him to the hospital. A source was quoted saying, "Neither Ibrahim nor Taimur. House help took the actor to hospital in an auto-rickshaw".

Kareena Kapoor Khan and other family members were also at home when the incident took place. Mumbai Police is currently investigating the case.

—IANS



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Here's to PV Sindhu, Venkata Datta Sai and love.
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